

## ***Reading First FAQ's December 2003***

### **ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS**

Q. Do we have to screen every child K-3?

A. Yes.

Q. How often are the assessments given?

A. Depends on the assessment. See the State Application, page 25 for details.

Q. What years of MAP qualify a district for Reading First?

A. 2001, 2002, or 2003

Q. Does TerraNova have to be given in the spring?

A. Yes. Reading First requires spring Terra Nova for K, 1, and 2 as an outcome assessment.

Q. What about ITBS?

A. It is not required and data will not be used for Reading First.

Q. What is the rationale for choosing TerraNova?

A. It is part of Missouri MAP.

Q. What MAP scores do we use as baseline?

A. Spring 2003.

Q. Will you have to show progress the first year?

A. Yes, based on the objectives written in the application.

Q. Can we continue to use DRA?

A. No. For Reading First, DRA has not been proven reliable and valid.

## **READING FIRST COACHES**

Q. What are the criteria and expected duties for the reading coach?

A. Check section 13 of the LEA application.

Q. Who hires the coaches?

A. Districts with approved grants will hire coaches.

Q. Does the number of teachers per reading coach include special education, LEP, etc.?

A. Yes. All K-3 teachers including K – 3 special education and K – 3 LEP are counted in eligible buildings.

Q. Is it an expectation that each eligible building will have a coach?

A. Yes, 1 coach for every 20 teachers.

Q. Does the coach have to be certified in reading?

A. No. Check section 13 of the LEA application for the requirements.

Q. If we just have 15 K-3 teachers, do you hire less than 1 coach?

A. No. Hire 1 coach.

Q. Should we hire 2 coaches for 40 teachers?

A. Yes.

Q. Does the coach have to be involved in all Reading First classrooms?

A. Coaches are required to be in each K-3 classroom four 90 minute reading periods per month.

Q. Can the coach come from within your district?

A. Yes, if they meet all qualifications.

Q. If we share a coach, do we still get total funding?

A. Yes. The coach's salary amount would be prorated to the percentage of time spent in each building.

Q. Can the coach assume other duties for a part of their day?

A. No.

Q. How many days of professional development will a coach have outside of the district during the school year?

A. Those dates and locations have not been set. Check the Reading First website at <http://www.dese.mo.gov/divimprove/fedprog/discretionarygrants/ReadingFirst/index.html> for more information as it becomes available.

Q. Can the districts with Reading First coaches get HB 474 funds?

A. Only if the coach is a certified reading specialist or trained in Reading Recovery.

## FINANCES / USE OF FUNDS

Q. Can we use Reading First funds for an extra classroom teacher?

A. No.

Q. Could a reading coach after 3 years of the Reading First grant be hired as the Title 1 (reading teacher) and the district receive HB 474 monies?

A. As it stands now, only if the teacher is a certified reading teacher or a Reading Recovery teacher.

Q. How should a district determine salary for reading coach?

A. Coaches' salaries should fall within the district salary schedule. Extended contracts may be included for the additional required training time.

Q. How should a district determine stipends?

A. Stipends should be within current district amounts as approved by the local Board of Education.

Q. Is the amount on the web an approximate amount?

A. Each building will receive a minimum of \$100,000. Additional amounts will depend on local needs as specified on approved applications.

Q. How many grants will be awarded?

A. That depends on the number of approved applications.

Q. Is there money in the grant to purchase the assessment tools?

A. Yes.

Q. Are the funds stable?

A. Reading First funds are as stable as any federal funds.

Q. How much money should be allocated for year 2 and 3?

A. See the LEA budget, section 18.

Q. How do we get money for year 2 and 3?

A. Districts will have to submit a continuation application for years 2 and 3.

Q. What percentage of grant expenses will the district be expected to take over in year 2 and 3?

A. There is no district match required.

Q. Is there a supplant issue for coaches?

A. No. Current literacy trainers / coaches can be funded through Reading First **providing** they meet the requirements for a coach.

Q. Is there a supplant issue for K – 3 reading materials?

A. No.

Q. Is it allowable to pay a sizable stipend for staff members attending the extensive summer training?

A. Stipends should fall within current district guidelines as approved by the local Board of Education.

Q. Can we write in money for subs?

A. Yes.

Q. Can we use funds for computers, smart boards, etc.?

A. Only if they are part of the core reading program curriculum. This **does not** include computer labs.

Q. Can we pay for someone's time for writing the grant with these funds?

A. No.

## SBRR / MATERIALS

Q. Do we have to choose a core reading program?

A. Yes. It must meet most of the requirements of the Consumer's Guide and can be supplemented as needed for the 5 key components of phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension.

Q. Is a new reading series required?

A. No, providing the current series meets all the criteria of the Consumer's Guide with supplements.

Q. Can you purchase a core reading program and then buy supplemental materials from another vendor?

A. Yes, providing they meet the requirements of the Consumer's Guide.

Q. Does Reading First demand a certain series be used?

A. No.

Q. Is there a list of materials that meet the criteria?

A. The State of Missouri does not publish an approved list of core reading programs or supplemental materials.

Q. Is 4 Blocks acceptable as a core reading program?

A. 4 Blocks is not a core reading program and does not provide a scope and sequence for systematic and explicit instruction in the 5 essential components.

Q. Can science or social studies materials be purchased as supplementary materials?

A. Yes. A limited number of Social Studies and Science materials that provide a variety of genre are required. Reading First funds **cannot be used** to purchase Social Studies or Science curriculum.

Q. Is writing included in the 90 minutes?

A. Yes, as long as the activities relate to each of the 5 major reading components and do not detract from the explicit, systematic instruction that is part of the core curriculum.

Q. What about guided reading leveled books?

A. Guided reading books can be used as supplements to the core reading program.

Q. Is it possible to have different sets of programs to fit different needs of students?

A. Reading First requires a core reading program. Intervention / supplemental materials may be used for any of the 5 areas not covered completely in a core reading series. Reading First also provides for the purchase of rich, varied and leveled supplemental materials to meet the needs of individual students.

Q. Can we use a different series for different grade levels?

A. No. One series will be used for K-3.

Q. Can we use a different series in different buildings?

A. No. One series will be used K-3, district-wide.

Q. Should we stay away from balanced literacy terms in our application?

A. Rely on SBRR terms and evidence.

Q. Isn't balanced literacy an MSIP requirement in 6.3.3?

A. No. Standard 6.3.3 includes components of research-based reading programs in grades K-3.

Q. Why do we have to have a core reading program?

A. Because it is required by Reading First.

Q. What is the website for the University of Oregon for the Consumer's Guide?

A. [http://reading.uoregon.edu/curricula/con\\_guide.php](http://reading.uoregon.edu/curricula/con_guide.php)

Q. What does the Consumer's Guide have to do with our LEA application?

A. It must be completed and included with each copy of the grant for the core reading program, intervention and supplemental materials the district intends to use.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT QUESTIONS

Q. What about professional development for upper grades?

A. The 4-12 teachers can participate in local Reading First professional development activities. Any additional expenses for these teachers will be paid by district funds.

Q. Is it mandatory for administrators to attend training?

A. Yes. Building principals are required to attend training with coaches and teachers.

Q. When and where will the training be held?

A. Sites and dates will be determined soon. Check the Reading First website at <http://www.dese.mo.gov/divimprove/fedprog/discretionarygrants/ReadingFirst/index.html> for more information as it becomes available.

Q. Is the summer professional development for all K-3 teachers?

A. Yes.

Q. Will the grant pay for professional development?

A. Stipends are allowable for out of contract time.

Q. What professional development is required?

A. Check the State Application to the feds for all the professional development components.

Q. Can subs be included in professional development?

A. Yes. Subs can attend local PD activities and be paid from Reading First funds.

## **SERVICES TO SPECIAL POPULATIONS**

Q. What happens to Title 1 teachers in Reading First?

A. Title 1 K-3 staff should be included in the state professional development and will work in the Reading First classrooms providing intervention for children who begin to fall behind. 4-12 Title 1 teachers should be included in the local professional development.

Q. Are LEP or Special Education teachers above 3<sup>rd</sup> grade included?

A. No. The 4-12 LEP or Special Ed teachers can participate in local Reading First professional development activities. Any additional expenses for these teachers will be paid by district funds.

Q. Are special education students required to spend the entire 90 minutes of uninterrupted reading instruction in the classroom?

A. IEPs trump everything in regard to the special education student spending the whole 90 minutes in the classroom for reading instruction. Follow the IEP in determining that placement.



## GENERAL QUESTIONS

Q. What is the grant period?

A. 3 years.

Q. Does documentation of the staff buy-in have to be attached to the grant?

A. No. Refer to section 6E of the LEA application.

Q. What is the maximum grant amount?

A. There is no maximum amount specified

Q. How many districts qualify?

A. 258 districts, 516 buildings.

Q. Are these grants competitive?

A. Yes.

Q. When are grants due?

A. March 1, 2004. The original grant and 3 copies must be included along with 4 copies of the completed Consumer's Guide.

Q. How many buildings may a district apply for?

A. Up to 15 eligible buildings per district.

Q. Where is the website info?

A. Check the Discretionary Grants page at

<http://www.dese.mo.gov/divimprove/fedprog/discretionarygrants/ReadingFirst/index.html>

Q. What is the font size?

A. Font and margins are set in the Adobe Acrobat version of the web application.

Q. When will districts be notified?

A. Readers will have an early April deadline.

Q. Will a certain percentage or number of years of qualifying on MAP affect the scoring of our application?

A. No.

Q. If we wait to apply until next year, will there be new grants?

A. That depends on the number of approved quality applications this year.

Q. Do you need research citations in the grant narratives?

A. No. Focus on your plan for implementation of Reading First.